



**RECOMMENDATION
COMMISSION ON IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS
20130513004.C**

On City of Austin support of and participation in the Immigrant Services Network of Austin
City of Austin, Texas

WHEREAS, the City of Austin and Travis County have significant diverse immigrant populations and welcome them in our city and county; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2010 U.S. Census approximately 18% of residents are foreign-born, and

WHEREAS over 63,000 native-born children and over 16,000 foreign born children in Travis County live in families with at least one foreign-born parent, and

WHEREAS, immigrants comprise a vital part of our workforce with the majority of foreign born individuals being within the prime working ages of 25-54, and

WHEREAS, the median household income of immigrants is \$22,325 and 42% of immigrants earn less than \$15,000 a year compared to 34% of all native born individuals at the same income level; and

WHEREAS, approximately 1 in 5 immigrants in Travis County live below the federal poverty level with 35% of the foreign-born population living in or near poverty and,

WHEREAS, the Immigrant Services Network of Austin is a working group of diverse community stakeholders and immigrant service providers operating together to coordinate efforts, increase public awareness, and inform policy, in order to better serve the immigrant community, and

WHEREAS, ISNA promotes the success and well-being of immigrants in order to secure the long-term prosperity of the entire community, and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin's Commission on Immigrant Affairs deems it imperative that the City of Austin assume a proactive role vis-à-vis the needs and realities of the immigrant community as a whole,

THEREFORE, be it:

RECOMMENDED, That the City of Austin's Commission on Immigrant Affairs urges City Council to allocate staff time within the Health and Human Services Department to participation in the Immigrant Services Network of Austin.

RECOMMENDED, That the City of Austin's Commission on Immigrant Affairs strongly suggests to City Council that staff time assigned to the Immigrant Services Network of Austin include the provision of administrative support.

PASSED by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on May 13, 2013.

Unanimously approved by the Commission on Immigrant Affairs on a 4-0 vote.

Attest:

Connie H. Gonzales
Staff Liaison